

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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11 October 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Military Exercises, October and November

Seventeen US military exercises of significance are scheduled for October and November: six in October, eight in November, and three throughout both months. Two of these exercises will take place in the US, five in Europe, six in the Far East, two in the Middle East-South Asia, and two in Latin and South America. A brief description of the exercises, along with the date postponement should be decided upon if necessary, is found in the attachment.

EUROPE

The most important exercise scheduled for Europe is BIG LIFT, the first division-size strategic mobility deployment of US forces. BIG LIFT will begin on 18 October and wind up after field maneuvers in West Germany on 10 December. DOD, having received final clearance for the exercise, has preparations well in hand. SEA RULER, a NATO unconventional warfare maneuver, began in September and was completed on 10 October.

In November, two naval exercises will take place, one NATO, and one US-Spanish. HAYSTRIKE 4-63, on 18-20 November, will provide Sixth Fleet units the opportunity to launch practice conventional air strikes and fighter sweeps prior to simulated release of nuclear weapons and execution of SACEUR's scheduled Nuclear Strike Program. Also beginning on 18 November and continuing for 10 days is MEDLANDEX 5-63, in which some Sixth Fleet units will practice assault landings on the coast of Spain with Spanish Navy and Marine Corps units.

Thus, BIG LIFT will dominate the military exercise picture in Europe during the next two months.

FAR EAST

Considerable exercise activity is planned in the Far East during the next two months. Four exercises are scheduled for Taiwan, two

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each in October and November. Emphasis will be on airborne, amphibious, and special forces training.

In Korea, from 14 October to 10 November, the 1st Korean Army will defend itself against "aggressor" attack and then counterattack to restore its position. US units will provide simulated nuclear support as necessary. The State Department believes this maneuver will serve a useful political purpose by occupying Korean troops during the presidential election, scheduled for 15 October. During mid-November, UN/US/Korean forces will carry out a command post exercise to test the force readiness; no field exercises will be involved.

The Far East exercises scheduled for October have been approved by the State Department; the November ones are still under evaluation.

MIDDLE EAST - SOUTH ASIA

A precedent-making operation will take place in India during November. A US/UK/Indian exercise (SHIKSHA) will seek to (1) augment, exercise, and improve the Indian air defense system, (2) train Indian air defense personnel, and (3) familiarize US and UK personnel with operating conditions in India. One USAF fighter squadron, two mobile USAF radar units, and one RAF fighter interceptor squadron will deploy to India. In addition, Australia will provide some communication personnel and aircraft. From 10 - 23 November, MIDLINK VI will take place. It is a CENTO maritime exercise in ASW operations, mine countermeasures, and other air and surface activities.

These exercises have been cleared by the State Department.

SOUTH AMERICA

UNITAS IV, the combined US/South American ASW exercise, launched during the summer, will continue through October and November. Planned for 16 - 30 November is OPERATION AMERICA, a field exercise hosted by Colombia in which the US and five South American republics (Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela) have been asked to participate. Whether all Latin American invitees will participate remains uncertain. During the exercise, company-sized units of the various countries will conduct combined amphibious and/or airlanded assaults. The US will provide transport and combat air and sea support for the

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Latin American forces, plus one infantry company. The State Department has approved this operation, recognizing that there may be some criticism of it from extreme nationalists and professional anti-Americans. Moreover, US withdrawal would cause the exercise to be cancelled. If circumstances should dictate, however, the US can withdraw as late as 25 October, at which time US forces will begin to move into position.

UNITED STATES

Both exercises were scheduled for October and are now completed. TOP RUNG I took place on 11 October to train NORAD and SAC forces. KEY CHAIN, a command post exercise to check communications procedures during times of crisis, also ended 11 October, after a four day run.

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